

NATIONAL RECORDER.

Containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

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VOL. IV.

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No. 2.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

This year's subscription is now due, and the publishers request that those to whom it may be convenient will call and pay it, and thus avoid a DUN.

The publishers are about to make arrangements to procure from England a constant supply of such periodical works as contain the best contributions to science and literature, and are not generally read in the United States. We hope to be able to make such extracts from them as will be interesting to our readers generally.

The communication from "HUMANITY," is not very explicit, but as far as we understand his meaning we agree with him. The subject upon which his pen is employed, is, however, peculiarly obnoxious to disputation, in which we are inclined to take no part, and we must therefore respectfully decline to publish his essay.

The poetical communication, signed "ELIZABETH," would be published if we had as much respect for the poetry of the writer as for her filial piety.

We perceive among the toasts drank on the 4th of July, at a meeting of "democratic republicans," the following by Mr. George M. Dallas: "*Maine and Missouri; new states upon old principles.*" This was received with three cheers. The only apparent object of the toast, is to express the speaker's satisfaction at the result of the debate last session. It might very properly be construed so as to have an opposite meaning, but this was probably far from his intention. Ought such an opinion to be received with applause in Pennsylvania?

Miscellany.

Translated for the National Recorder.

Institution of the Deaf and Dumb at Paris.

FROM L'HERMITE DE LA CHAUSSEE D'ANTIN.

"Gratum est, quod patriæ cives populoque dedisti."—*Juv.*

Walking Friday last on the boulevards with an old comrade of the regiment to

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which I formerly belonged (the chevalier Maurice), who usually lives in the country, but who comes to Paris two or three times a year, we amused ourselves in collecting together and examining the recollections of our youthful days; we called to mind our ancient occupations, our ancient pleasures, and we passed in review the places which had been the theatre of, and the persons who had partaken them. I was obliged to confess, that when we arrived in a garrison, it was always he who was chosen to make inquiries and discoveries, and the next day we were sure of being informed of all that was necessary to be known, to wit, the names of the handsomest ladies in the town, the best ordinary, the most fashionable coffee-house, and the promenade the most frequented. "I was then able," said he, laughing, "to make a complete statistical table of France, for the use of young officers; at present I can still charge myself with that of the capital, and I wager that I can teach you (who by profession ought to know Paris better than any one else) a great many things of which you are ignorant.

He then cited to me the names of twenty little theatres, as many gardens and public establishments where fêtes were given, which in truth I had never heard spoken of. Whilst he was speaking, we were roughly jostled in one of the side walks of the boulevards, by a file of five or six men, who walked along very fast one after the other. Maurice apostrophized pretty sharply the one who had run against him, saying, that "a man, when walking, should always look before him." "So I most certainly would," answered he (still pursuing his way), "if I only had eyes!" "They are blind," cried the chevalier, with the astonishment of a man who thinks he has made a discovery. "I see," said I, "that you are much more familiar with objects of amusement, than with institutions of public utility, and I will bet in my turn that you do not even know in what quarter of Paris the Hospital of the Quinze-vingts is situated." He acknowledged his ignorance,

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and his wonder increased on learning that these unfortunate beings, left every day their hospital (which is situated at the bottom of the fauxbourg St. Antoine) and traversed Paris, to go to the Palais Royal, where they performed as musicians at the *Café des Aveugles*,* and afterwards returned home at midnight, without guide or accident. The chevalier could scarce believe the phenomenon of such an instinct, and his astonishment was at the highest pitch, when I bade him observe at some steps from us, on the same boulevard where we were walking, two blind men, who played piquet with as much assurance, and almost as fast, as two amateurs of the *bercle*. "You only see there, however," said I to Maurice, "a prodigy of address; I wish now to show you one which appears at first glance to exceed the limits of human intelligence," and I spoke to him of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. As he appeared to call in question the facts which he could not comprehend, I offered him the means of convincing himself by his own eyes, and proposed to him to accompany me the next day to the public exhibition of the institution, for which I had tickets. He accepted with eagerness the invitation, and came the next morning, with his sister and niece, who wished to be of the party.

While on our way to the institution, these ladies interrogated me upon its origin and progress, of which I could only give them very incomplete details. The sublime idea of restoring to society beings which nature appeared to have excluded from it; of supplying by education the organs of hearing and of speech, which they were deprived of, had before it was matured in the head, or rather the *heart* of the celebrated abbé de L'Épée, arrested, at different epochs, the attention of a Spanish monk named Ponce, of the English mathematician Wallis, and of Amman, a physician of Harlaem; but the honour of this admirable invention, does not the less belong to him who brought to perfection the feeble attempts of his predecessors, who united them in a system, and who (like Vincent de Paul, that other benefactor of humanity) consecrated his life and fortune to the foundation of one of the most useful establishments which honours France. Let us hope that public gratitude will prevent posterity from forgetting, that the abbé de L'Épée, without office, without

a living, without protection, without any other assistance than his own inheritance (which did not amount to more than twelve thousand livres a year), maintained and instructed in his own house forty deaf and dumb scholars, that he suffered for their sakes the most long and painful privations, and that during the rigorous winter of 1788, he deprived himself of wood and clothes of which he had need, in order that his pupils should want nothing; all these labours and sacrifices would infallibly have been lost, if the abbé had not found in his successor an heir of his talents and virtues.

The abbé Sicard, now instructor of the deaf and dumb, has completed the work of the abbé de L'Épée; he has deduced all the consequences of the system of education, of which the former had laid down the principles; and such is the perfection of the method employed by the abbé Sicard, that one is tempted sometimes to believe, that in the place of seeking a compensation for the organs of which nature has deprived his pupils, he has applied himself to the development of an intellectual sense in them which is wanting in other men. I will give as a proof, two of the well known answers of Massien, who when asked for a definition of *Eternity*, immediately answered, *A day without yesterday or to-morrow*; and of Gratitude, *The memory of the heart!*

While thus conversing, we arrived at the ancient seminary of Saint Magloire, where the National Institution of the Deaf and Dumb is situated. A large corpulent portress, towards whom nature has perhaps been too liberal in the gift of speech, which she has refused to the other inhabitants of the house, pointed out to us the hall of exhibition at the bottom of a vast court, around which the most brilliant equipages were ranged. It was already filled; the first seats were occupied by elegant women, and by a number of strangers of distinction; the rest of the assembly was composed of men of letters, of scholars who came to hear a course of moral physiology from this skilful professor, and of some masters and mistresses of boarding schools, who habitually came to his lectures to learn orthography, and correct the faults which perhaps they had taught the day before!

The young deaf and dumb pupils of both sexes arrived and placed themselves in their seats: those who were designed to answer questions ranged themselves in a species of amphitheatre, the extremity of which was provided with a black board, destined for demonstrations.

* Literally, coffee house of the blind. It takes its name from the circumstance of these blind men playing there.

While these young persons occupied the attention of the spectators, the latter were in their turn the object of the animadversions of the former, who communicated their observations to each other, from one extremity of the hall to the other, in a manner less noisy, but quite as rapid as the audience. Their features are so expressive, their gestures so animated, that without being initiated into the mysteries of their language it is easy to divine the object of their conversation; it is sometimes so gay, so epigrammatical, that their overseers are obliged to impose upon them the silence of inaction. Their criticisms, more lively than malicious, were particularly exercised upon the ladies, whose persons, features, and manners, were by turns discussed and judged in their little tribunal. The sister and niece of Maurice did not escape this examination. They were placed in such a manner as only to be seen by one scholar, who undertook to draw their portraits for the benefit of his comrades. The pretty face of the niece, her modest behaviour, and the glow of health and youth which distinguished her, were described in a manner so picturesque, that the amiable model, by whom the action of the painter was not unobserved, blushed at the same time with modesty and pleasure. The mute interlocutors then interrogated the same young man respecting the mother of her whose portrait had been drawn so glowingly. He described her by gestures so comic, he pointed out so pleasantly the curve of her parrot nose, to which her chin seemed momentarily inclined to join, that all eyes were directed upon the good lady, who laughed herself at the grimaces, of which she was far from supposing herself the object.

The first part of the exhibition was consecrated to grammatical questions, which the abbé Sicard developed for the instruction of his hearers, and of which solutions were given by his scholars with a clearness and precision which would have done honour to the most learned grammarians; and if we reflect for a moment on the immense efforts, the patience and the combinations which are necessary to cause so many abstract ideas to enter into the heads of these children without the aid of speech and by means of the eyes alone, it is impossible not to be filled with the most profound admiration. This sentiment is still further augmented, when, passing from grammar to metaphysics, *we hear* (if I may here use the expression) *persons deaf and dumb from their birth, analyze the human*

thought by a process of which they have created even the very expression; among many answers remarkable for their admirable sagacity, I chose these which Massien and Leclerc (two of the most learned scholars) had made to me; I asked them the *difference between desire and hope*: the answer of Massien was, "Desire is a tree bearing leaves, Hope a tree bearing flowers, Enjoyment a tree bearing fruit;"* that of Leclerc, "Desire is an inclination of the heart, Hope a confidence of the mind."

I may be deceived, but it appears to me that this last definition would have been admired had it even been found in the writings of Locke or Condillac. It is by similar examples, that the abbé Sicard is able to demonstrate, that not only all the different shades of *language as it is spoken*, can be appreciated by the deaf and dumb, but also that their language, which may be called the *language of ideas*, is richer than ours, for it cannot be denied that a man endowed with a lively imagination and expanded mind, conceives many ideas which he cannot find words to explain or utter.

FOR THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

SATURDAY SERMON—NO. VII.

"And the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."—MATT. xiii. 22.

The cares of business, and the bustle of society, have a constant and powerful effect in withdrawing our thoughts from the more dignified ends of life, and filling our minds with prospects of gain or pleasure which enervate and debase us. Perhaps even the hope of reputation may be added as one of the effects of society upon us, against which we should guard, unless the fame we aspire after be of a purer and higher order than will often be suggested to our wishes by the prospect around us.

To counteract in some degree the effect produced upon me by the tenor of an ordinary life, and the conversation of my usual companions, I made in the earlier part of my life a rule, which has now become a habit, to look for a while at some illustrious example in the hope of catching a portion of his spirit, or to read every day a paper in the Rambler, a few pages from the poets or from those philosophers (at the head of whom I place Dugald Stuart) who

* Le desir est un arbre en feuilles, l'esperance un arbre en fleurs, la jouissance un arbre en fruits.

are such delightful examples of the aphorism of Pope,

"True wisdom comes not from the head, but heart."

Another means, which I have less constantly used for the same purpose, is a review at the close of the day of all that I could recollect of its events. The effect of self-examination is so trite a subject, that it ought not to be the theme of common pens; I will therefore add my testimony to its advantages in few words.

When I have prepared for bed on a summer night and extinguished the light, I frequently sit by the window for half an hour. The cool breeze of night, and the tranquil beams of the moon or the sparkling stars, soon lull to rest all the hurry of my spirits. The scenes of the day then pass before me in their true light, and I often find that I have suffered myself to imbibe too much of the spirit of the passing world. I am not, however, one of those who think

"This world is all a fleeting show,
For man's delusion giv'n;"

nor do I view it *merely* as a place of preparation for future existence: I regard it as an essential part of the eternal life of man, and would not, if I could, put in practice the precepts of those who think self-denial the essence of virtue and piety.

I often find myself to have been too selfish: I have maintained my own opinions too warmly, and have perhaps wounded the self-love of an amiable man by contradiction or opposition for no useful purpose. Sometimes I have been negligent or impatient as a father, and am not always without cause to think that as a husband I have been wanting in kindness and attention.

A sense of our faults is the first step to amendment. From the determination to do better next day, I anticipate in my own cheerfulness the reward of well-doing. I offer to the Father of all my most humble and hearty thanks for his goodness and loving kindness in surrounding me with so many blessings, and with a mind purified by such reflections, lay my head on the pillow.

YORICK.

From the Baltimore Federal Gazette.

MONT BLANC.

A Visit to Mont Blanc, in a letter from an American traveller, to his friends in the United States.

Geneva, July 22, 1819.

You, who are acquainted with my clambering disposition, which has already carried me to the

tops of Vesuvius and Ætna, will not be very much surprised at learning, that I have attempted, with success, to mount to the summit of Mont Blanc; an aerial journey which many have wished to accomplish, but few have undertaken, and in which still fewer have succeeded. I am somewhat afraid that you will condemn the expedition as a wild one, and I am sensible, with considerable justice; but you need be under no apprehensions of my making any similar attempts in future. Having reached the highest point in Europe, if not in the old world, (which some recent discoveries concerning the mountains of India, render at least doubtful,) my curiosity is entirely gratified, and there is no probability of my meeting with any future temptation, sufficient to excite it anew.

During our visit to Chamouny in the beginning of this month, my companion, Dr. Van Renssalaer, and myself in our various excursions to the glaciers, frequently conversed with the guides, who had participated in these journies, and among them with Balmat, the Columbus of Mont Blanc. The result was, that our curiosity was strongly excited, and being induced by their representation of the almost certainty of succeeding in the present favourable weather, we finally determined to make the attempt. We therefore engaged *Marie Cortet*, an experienced guide, who had been three times on the summit, as leader, and eight other guides to accompany us. They refused to undertake the journey with a smaller party, on account of the number of articles which it was necessary to take with us, as, a ladder, cords, provisions, charcoal to melt the snow for drinking, and a number of other things, which were indispensable, and which formed a sufficient quantity to load each of the nine with a considerable burden. One day was occupied in making the preparations, on which our comfort and our ultimate success depended. These were passed in review in the evening, and having found that nothing material was omitted, an early hour the next day was appointed for our departure.

Accordingly on Sunday, the 11th of July, we left the village of Chamouny, at 5 o'clock, full of anxiety, and accompanied by the good wishes of the honest inhabitants for our success. The necessity of taking advantage of the fine weather, opposed our delaying another day. Our guides, who, in common with all the inhabitants of Chamouny, are very scrupulous on this point, were unwilling to set out on a church day, without having previously attended mass. To ease their conscience, and at the same time not to delay our departure, the cure had arranged to celebrate it at three o'clock, which gave them an opportunity, they had not neglected, of attending it.

We descended the valley by the side of the Arva, about a league, till we approached the glacier of Boissons, and then turning suddenly to the left into the woods, we began immediately, a very steep ascent, parallel to, and about half a mile from, the edge of the glacier. After about three hours' toilsome mounting, we came to the last house on our road. It was the highest dwelling in the neighbourhood, and was one of those cottages, called "*Chalets*," which are inhabited only during three of the summer

months, when the inhabitants drive their cattle from the plains below, to the then richer verdure of the mountains. We found there the old man and his two daughters; his wife, as is the custom, was left behind to take care of the house in the valley. After refreshing ourselves with a delicious draught of fresh milk, and receiving the wishes of these good people, for a "bon voyage," we bade adieu to all traces of man, and continued to mount. Another hour's toil brought us above the region of wood, after which the few stunted vegetables we met with, gradually diminished in size, and when we arrived at 10 o'clock, at the upper end of the glacier of Boissons, only a few mosses, and the most hardy alpine plants, were to be seen.

We had been compelled a little before, by the precipices of the Aiguille du Midi, which presented themselves like a wall before us, to change our direction, and instead of proceeding parallel to the glacier, to strike off suddenly towards it. We had now a close view of some of the obstacles which bar the approach to Mont Blanc; the glacier of Boissons, on which we were about to enter, seemed to me absolutely impassible. The only relief to the white snow and ice before us, was an occasional rock, thrusting its sharp point above their surface, and too steep to permit the snow to lodge on it. One of these rocks, or rather a chain of them, called the "Grand Mulet," which we had destined for our resting place for the night, was before us, but far above our heads, at the distance of 4 or 5 miles; the glacier, however, still intervened, and appeared to defy all attempts to approach it.

The glacier of Boissons, like the rest of the glaciers of the Alps, is an immense mass of ice filling a valley which stretches down the mountain side, and is formed by the accumulated snow and ice, which are constantly in the summer months sliding from above. While the glaciers are thus constantly increasing on the surface, the internal heat of the earth is slowly melting them below. Hence, when they are large, there generally proceeds from under them a considerable stream: such are the sources of the Rhine and of the Rhone. Their surface often resembles that of a violent agitated sea, suddenly congealed. They are frequently of several leagues in breadth, and from 100 to 600 feet in depth. The snow which falls on them to the depth of several feet every winter, is softened by the sun's rays in summer, and freezing again at the return of cold weather, but in a more solid state, forms a successive layer every year. This stratum may be easily measured, (as each of them is distinctly separated from its neighbour by a dark line,) at the section made by those cracks, which traverse every glacier in all directions. These cracks or crevices, are occasioned by the irregular sinking of part of the glacier whose support below has been gradually melted away. This effect takes place principally in summer, with a noise that may be heard at the distance of several miles, and with a shock that makes the neighbouring country tremble. These rents are from a few inches to 20, 30, or even 50 or 60 feet in breadth, and generally of immense depth, probably extending to the bottom of the glacier. They offer the greatest danger and difficulty to

the passenger. They are often concealed by the snow, which gives no indication on its surface, of the want of solidity; and it often happens that the chamois hunter, notwithstanding all his caution, suddenly sinks through this perfidious veil into the chasm beneath.

We remained a couple of hours at our resting place, to take some refreshment, and regain strength for our next difficult task. Our feet seemed to linger, and to leave with reluctance the last ground we were to touch until our return. We however entered on the glacier with confidence in the skill and prudence of our guides; several of whom being hunters, and accustomed to chase the chamois over such places, were acquainted with all the precautions that it was necessary to take for our safety. To avoid the danger of falling into the crevices, especially those masked by the snow, we fastened ourselves, three persons together, at the distance of 10 or 12 feet apart, by a cord round the body: so that in case of one falling into one of these cavities, the other two could support him. Each person was provided with a pole, 6 feet long, and pointed at the bottom with iron, which we found to be a necessary article. Where the crevices were not more than two or three feet broad, we leaped over them with the assistance of our staff; others we passed on natural bridges of snow, that threatened to sink into the abyss, and over others we made a bridge of the ladder, which was extremely slight, as otherwise it would have been impossible to carry it up the steeps we had ascended. Without its assistance we could not have passed the glacier. Over this slender support we crawled with caution, suspended over a chasm, into which we could see to an immense depth; but of which we could see no bottom. We were sometimes forced to pass on a narrow ridge of treacherous ice, not more than a foot in breadth, with one of these terrific chasms on either side. The firm step, with which we saw our guides pass these difficulties, inspired us with confidence: but I cannot even now think of some of the situations we were placed in, without a sentiment of dread; and especially when in bed, and in the silence of night, they present themselves to my imagination, I involuntarily shrink with horror at the idea, and am astonished in recollecting what little sensation I felt at the moment.

We threw down, into some of the narrow cracks, pieces of ice and fragments of rock, and heard for a considerable time, the more and more distant sound, as they bounded from side to side. In no instance could we perceive the stone strike the bottom; but the sound, instead of ceasing suddenly, as would then have been the case, grew fainter and fainter, until it was too feeble to be heard. What then must be the immense depth of these openings, when in these silent regions, the noise of a large stone striking the bottom is too distant to be heard at the orifice.

The number of openings we met with, which were broader than the length of our ladder, and which, of course, we had no means of crossing, rendered our path extremely circuitous. We were often enabled, by the ladder's assistance, to scale high and perpendicular banks of snow. It sometimes proved too short to reach

to the top; but where the steep was not absolutely perpendicular, we continued in several instances to remedy this inconvenience. One of the guides, standing on the top of the ladder, enabled the rest, who clambered up by his assistance, to reach the summit: when there, we easily drew up him and the ladder with cords.

We were occasionally compelled to retrace our steps, and we were frequently so involved in an intricate path, that we had to remain without proceeding, a considerable time, until the guides, who were dispersed in every direction on the discovery, could find a practicable path to extricate us.

In addition to these difficulties, I had not been long on the glacier before I perceived that my faithless boot had given way; which, as every thing depended upon the good health of our feet, was a serious misfortune. Necessity, however, is the mother of invention, and I contrived to bind it with cords in such a manner that it served me tolerably well the rest of the journey.

In consequence of all these obstacles, we only arrived at 5 o'clock at the "Grand Mulet," not more than 4 or 5 miles distant, in a straight line from the point where we entered on the glacier; but, from the circuitous route we had taken, we could not have walked less, in this distance, than 14 or 15 miles. We were now 11,000 feet above the level of the sea, and 8,000 feet above the village of Chamouny. A niche on the steep side, and near the top of the rock, about 150 feet from its base, and to which we had much difficulty in climbing, was selected for our lodging place; indeed it was the only part of the rock that afforded any thing like a level place. We were fortunate in finding the day had been so warm that there was water in some of the crevices of ice, which circumstance enabled us to economize our charcoal. The sun shone very bright on our side of the rock, but as soon as it sunk below the horizon, the eternal frost around us regained its influence, and the air became very cold. We had, however, time to dry our boots and pantaloons, and I found a pair of large woollen stockings that I had with me, an invaluable article. Our guides stretched the ladder from one point of the rock to another, and throwing over it a couple of sheets, they had brought for the purpose, formed a kind of tent, just large enough for Dr. Van Renssalaer and myself to creep in: a single blanket upon the rock was our bed. The guides were so loaded with indispensable articles, that we had not been able to bring a blanket, or even an extra coat to cover us.

After a cold and uncomfortable supper, we crept into our den, soon after the genial sun had left us, and endeavoured, by every means our ingenuity could suggest, but ineffectually, to keep ourselves warm. We suffered much from the cold all night, but, principally, towards morning, as the thermometer was several degrees below freezing. The night seemed to last at least twenty hours; at one time I thought the day must certainly be not distant, and was surprised at looking at my watch, by the light of the moon, to find it only 11 o'clock. Tired of lying, and shivering with the cold, I crawled out about midnight to warm myself by clamber-

ing on the rock. The view around me was sublime. The sky was very clear, but perfectly black: the moon and stars, whose rays were not obscured by passing through the lower dense region of the atmosphere, shone with a brilliancy tenfold of what I had ever observed from below; and the comet, with its bright tail, formed, in the northwest, a beautiful object. Nothing was to be seen around the rock on which we were placed, but white snow and some heavy clouds, that, floating below us, shut out the valley from my view. The guides were all asleep, and the only interruption to the silence of death, was the occasional avalanche, rolling with the sound of distant thunder from the highest part of the surrounding glaciers, and heightening the feelings of awful sublimity, which our situation was so calculated to inspire.

As our lodging was far from comfortable in every point of view, we were under no temptation of lying till a late hour in the morning. On the contrary, we hailed with joy the first appearance of the dawn, which enabled us to substitute the warmth of marching, for the cold inactivity from which we had suffered all night. We set out at 3 o'clock, leaving most of our provisions and other articles on the rock. Four hours of laborious, but not dangerous walking, brought us to a large plain, called the "Grand Plateau," which is nearly surrounded, on the one hand, by a spur of Mont Blanc, and the Aiguille du Midi, on the other, by the Montagne de la Cote, while Mont Blanc presents itself directly in front. These mountains form a steep amphitheatre around this plain. There we stopped an hour to breakfast, and to recruit strength for the last and most difficult part of the ascent. We were now more than 12,000 feet above the level of the sea, and only 3,000 feet lower than the summit, which was in full view before us. But I looked around, in vain, for any part of its steep sides that seemed to offer a possibility of attaining it, and when the guides pointed out the route we were to take, among and over precipices, and huge broken masses of snow, and up almost perpendicular steeps, I involuntarily shrunk at the prospect, and could not forbear casting my eye wistfully at our road back. But it would not have done to be deterred at this time by a few difficulties; and a moment's reflection, on the skill and experience of our guides renewed my confidence, and we began cheerfully to mount the first steep before us. We here began to feel an effect, that is always experienced at considerable heights. It was impossible for the strongest of us to take more than twenty-five or thirty steps, without stopping to take breath, and this effect gradually increased as we continued to ascend; insomuch, that when near the summit, even the stoutest of our guides, who could run for leagues over the lower mountains without panting, could not take more than twelve, or at most fifteen steps, without being ready to sink for want of breath. If we attempted to exceed this number by even three or four steps, a horrible oppression seized us, and our limbs sunk under us. It is very possible, that Walter Scott's hero,

"Up Ben Lomond's side could press,
And not a sob his toil confess;"

But I am very certain he could not perform the same feat on Mont Blanc. It is remarkable that a few seconds rest was sufficient to restore our strength and breath. One of our guides, a robust man, who had been once on the summit, was so much incommoded, that we were compelled to leave him behind to wait our return. I experienced some inconvenience from a slight degree of sickness of stomach and headach, of which most of those who have made this journey have complained. When ascending *Ætna*, two months before, I had been seriously affected, both by a difficulty of breathing, and by a violent thumping of the heart and arteries against the ribs, which was loud enough to be easily heard by my companions, and which the slightest exertion was sufficient to excite. In the present instance I dreaded these effects, and had already begun to feel them in an uncomfortable degree; but was almost entirely relieved by drinking plentifully of vinegar and water, with which our guides, to whom experience had taught its utility, had taken care to be well provided. This drink was extremely agreeable to us; wine, on the contrary, disgusted us. All the water we had we had brought from our rock, where we carefully collected it from the cracks of the ice: for we were now in the region of eternal ice, where rain never falls, and where the utmost power of midsummer can only soften, in a slight degree, the surface of the snow.

The acclivity we were now ascending, was steeper than any we had before encountered, so much so, that we could only accomplish it by a zigzag path, advancing not more than a few feet every 20 or 30 yards we walked. To have an idea of our situation, you must imagine us proceeding in a file on the steep mountain side, placing with the greatest care our feet in the steps, which the hardness of the snow rendered it necessary for our leader to cut with an axe, supporting ourselves with our poles against the upper side of the slope, and having on the other side the same rapid slope, terminating below in a precipice several hundred feet in height, over which we saw rapidly hurried all the small pieces of ice, that we loosened with our feet. Our situation was similar to that of a person scaling the steep and iced roof of a lofty house, and constantly liable, by an incautious step, to be suddenly precipitated over the eaves. After proceeding in this manner for some time, I looked down on the "Plateau" beneath, for the guide we had left, and when at last I discerned him, like a speck on the snow, my head began to grow dizzy at the idea of the distance below me, and I was forced to keep my head averted from this side.

Our guides had attached themselves and us with cords, each three persons together, as when passing the glacier. They were provided with large iron points fastened to their feet, which prevented them from slipping. Doctor Van Renssalaer and myself had found this contrivance impede too much our walking, and after a short trial had given it up. I am not entirely convinced, that if one of us had had the misfortune to fall, and were slipping down the declivity, he would not have drawn his companions, in spite of these precautions, down the precipice. To add to all our difficulties, the

sun was excessively bright, and almost blinded us, notwithstanding the gauze veils with which we were all provided.

Fortunately we met with very few crevices: however, on passing one of these that was hid by the snow, I suddenly sunk, but my body being thrown forward by this motion, my breast opposed a larger surface to the snow, which thus supported me, and I was easily extricated by a guide. On looking back through the hole I had broken, I could perceive the black cavity beneath.

At one period, our path necessarily led us close under a wall of snow, more than 150 feet high, from the top of which projected several large masses of snow, that appeared to require only a breath to bring them down on our heads. Our captain pointed out our danger, and enjoined us to pass as quickly as possible, and to observe the strictest silence. The inhabitants of those parts of the Alps exposed to avalanches, assert that the concussion of the air, produced by the voice, is often sufficient to loosen, and bring down these immense masses. Hence the muleteer is often seen to take the bells from his animals, when he passes through a valley subject to this danger. We were by no means so philosophical as to be disposed to make the experiment in the present instance; but, on the contrary, carefully obeyed our instructions. A few years since, some young men, relying on the solidity of the ice, and wishing to try the echo, were so imprudent as to discharge a pistol in a large cave which is at the lower edge of the glacier des Pois, near Chamouny. The shock brought down the roof, which crushed them on the spot.

At 11 o'clock we had passed most of the difficulties, and all the dangers of our ascent, and reached a granite rock which appears above the snow at the foot of the small mount or nipple which forms the summit of Mont Blanc. This rock is only 1,000 feet lower than the summit. Here we enjoyed a full view of the valley and village of Chamouny, which had hitherto been masked by the "Aiguille du Midi;" and when we recollected the promises of our friends there to watch our progress with their glasses, and were convinced that they were at that moment observing, we felt relieved from the sensation which we had previously experienced, of being shut out from the world. In fact, we learned afterwards that they had seen us distinctly, counted our number, and observed that one of the party was missing: this was the guide we had left at the "Plateau."

Our final object was now close at hand. We turned, with renewed ardour, to accomplish it; continuing our zigzag path, till, after infinite suffering and gasping for breath, we stood, at half an hour after noon, on the highest point of Europe!

Our first impulse, on arriving, was to enjoy the pleasure of throwing our eyes around, without encountering any obstacle. The world was at our feet. The sensations I felt were rather those of awe than sublimity. It seemed that I no longer trod on this globe, but that I was removed to some higher planet, from which I could look down on a scene which I had lately inhabited, and where I had left behind me the passions, the sufferings, and the vices of men. The

houses of Chamouny appeared like dwellings of ants, and the river which flows through the valley, seemed not sufficient to drown one of these pigmy animals. These emotions made me, for some time, insensible to the cold, but the piercing wind, which here had free scope, soon put an end to my waking dream, and enabled me to examine, more calmly, the objects around.

Notwithstanding the pleasure inspired by the view, it was certainly more terrific than beautiful. The distant objects appeared as if covered by a veil. To the northwest was the chain of Jura, with a mist hanging on its whole extent, which prevented the eye from penetrating into France, in that direction. On the north was the lake of Geneva; of a black colour, and surrounded by mountains, which we had thought high, when we were on its banks, but which now appeared insignificant, and the lake itself seemed scarcely capacious enough for a bathing place. To the east were the only mountains that appeared of a considerable size; among which the most conspicuous were the Jungfrau and Schreckhorn in Grendelwalden, and Monte Rosa on the borders of Piedmont, which rises its hoary and magnificent head to within a few hundred feet of the level of Mont Blanc. The Grand St. Bernard was at our feet, to the southeast, scarcely appearing to rise more than a mole's hill height above the adjoining vallies. The obstacles which Bonaparte had to encounter in leading his army over this mountain, even in winter, appeared so diminished in our eyes, that this vaunted undertaking lost, at the moment, in our estimation, much of its heroism and grandeur.

The view below, and immediately around, presented a shapeless collection of craggy points, among which the "Needles" were easily distinguished. We could hardly trust our senses, when we saw, beneath our feet, those rocks which, from below, appear higher than Mont Blanc itself, and which seem to penetrate into the region of the stars, and to threaten to "disturb the moon in passing by." Our view may be compared with that from the top of an elevated steeple over an extensive city, of the most lofty habitations, of which the roofs only are seen. The only green that we could perceive, was the narrow valley of Chamouny, and the two vallies by the side of St. Bernard. The portion of the earth that was not covered with snow, appeared of a gloomy and dark gray colour. The world presented an image of chaos, and offered but little to tempt our return to it.

The top of Mont Blanc is a ridge of perhaps 150 feet in length, and 6 or 8 in breadth. It is entirely composed of snow, which is probably of immense depth, and is constantly accumulating. We could see no traces of the obelisk, 12 feet in height, which had been set up about ten years before. One of our guides was of the number of those who placed it, and designated to us its position. The highest rock, which appears above the snow, is a small one of granite, 600 feet below the summit. We remained but a few minutes immediately on the top, as the wind blew hard and piercingly cold. Descending a few feet on the south side we were partially sheltered from the wind, and here the sun shone with an excessive brightness, heating every part of the body exposed to his rays; but

the least breath of wind, which reached us at intervals, was sufficient to make us shiver with cold. Fahrenheit's thermometer, in the sun, was two degrees below freezing, and five and a half in the shade. It must be recollected that we suffered a much greater degree of cold, than the thermometer indicated, from the rapid evaporation from the surface of our bodies of the insensible transpiration, occasioned by the dryness and great rarity of the surrounding air. This cause, familiar to physiologists, affected our sensations, and could not influence the thermometer. Most of our guides stretched themselves on the snow in the sun, and yielded to the strong inclination to sleep, which we all felt. Only one or two of them ate: the others, on the contrary, evinced an aversion from the provision. We did not suffer the great thirst which Saussure and his party experienced. This we prevented by drinking vinegar and water, which was very grateful to us, instead of pure water. Our pulses were increased in frequency and fulness, and we had all the symptoms of fever. I occupied myself, notwithstanding the indisposition to action which I felt, in making a few observations, and in stopping and sealing very carefully a bottle which I had filled with the air of the summit, intended for examination on my return.

The colour of the sky had gradually assumed a deeper tint of blue, as we ascended: its present colour was dark indigo, approaching nearly to black. There was something awful in this appearance, so different from any we had ever witnessed. It was as if the sun were shining at midnight. During some of the first attempts that were made to ascend Mont Blanc, this appearance produced such an effect on the minds of the guides, who imagined that heaven was frowning on their undertaking, that they refused to proceed. The portion of atmosphere above us was entirely free from the vapours which the lower strata always contain, and was truly the "pure empyreal," seldom seen by mortal eyes. We had all our life beheld the sun through a mist, but we now saw him face to face, in all his splendour. The guides asserted that the stars can be seen, in full day, by a person placed in the shade. It being near noon, the sun almost over our heads, we could not find shade to enable us to make the experiment.

The air on the top of Mont Blanc is of but little more than half the density of that at the surface of the ocean. According to the observation of Saussure, the height of the barometer on the summit, was sixteen and a half inches, while that of a corresponding one at Geneva, was twenty-eight inches. In consequence of this rarity of the air a pistol, heavily charged, which we fired several times, made scarcely more noise than the crack of a postillion's whip.

We remained an hour and a quarter on the summit, and then began to descend. We found this, at first, an easy task, though perhaps more dangerous than the ascent, on account of the greater risk of slipping. We passed under the place where the avalanche threatened our heads, with even more caution and more rapidity than before, as we found that a small piece had actually fallen, and covered our path since we had gone up. We arrived in about an hour at the "Grand Plateau," where we stopped to refresh

ourselves, and gratify our returning appetites. We found the guide whom we had left, quite relieved. Here the sun, reflected from the walls of snow which surrounded us on three sides, poured down on us with the most burning heat that I ever experienced from its rays, while our feet, cold from being immersed in the snow, prevented perspiration, and thus increased its power. Wherever its rays could penetrate, as between the cap and neckcloth, or even to the hands, it resembled the application of a heated iron. We were compelled in addition to the assistance of our veils, to keep our eyes half closed, and even then the light was too powerful for them.

We continued with ease and cheerfulness our descent, until an unexpected difficulty occurred. Where in the morning we had cut our footsteps with an axe, we now found the snow so much softened by the sun, that we sunk in it every third or fourth step, to the middle of the body. Dr. Van Renssalaer and myself were more subject to this inconvenience than the guides, on account of the soles of our boots presenting a less surface to the snow, than those of their large shoes. After plunging on in this manner for some time, we began to despair of reaching our rock, which was yet four or five miles distant: but there was no alternative but to proceed. We therefore kept on, though with excessive fatigue. We frequently fell forward, and one limb being tightly engaged in the snow, was violently twisted, and constantly subject to be sprained; which in our situation would have been a serious misfortune. The crevices too, were, from their edges having become softened, more dangerous than before. Perseverance and caution, however, triumphed over all these difficulties, and we reached the "Grand Mulet" half an hour after five, our boots, stockings and pantaloons completely soaked. These were immediately stretched on the rock to dry, which the heat of the sun soon effected. I had the disappointment to find, on examining my pockets, that the bottle which I had so carefully filled with the air of the summit, had been broken in one of my frequent falls, and of course my hopes of making with it some interesting experiments were now destroyed. The thermometer was also broken.

Notwithstanding the Herculean labour of the day, and the fatigue we experienced at the time, we had not been long on our rock before we felt strong and invigorated, as if just risen from a comfortable night's repose. This effect of the mountain air has often been remarked. We had even sufficient strength and time to enable us to continue our descent with ease to Chamouny; but in the present softened state of the snow, it would have been madness to attempt to cross the glacier, which we found difficult and dangerous the preceding day, before the sun's rays had affected it. In fact, while two of the guides were looking down our path over the glacier, they saw a bridge of snow which we all crossed the day before, suddenly sink into the chasm beneath.

Imprisoned thus by the glacier, which was now all that intervened betwixt us and terra firma, we quietly resolved to remain where we were, and made the same arrangements for passing the night, that we had done the even-

ing before. We were, however, at present better off: I mentioned that we had been so fortunate as to find a sufficient supply of water in the neighbourhood of our rock, in consequence of which, most of the charcoal we had brought to melt the snow, remained. With this I made a small fire at our feet, and by blowing almost constantly, kept it up during the night. The cold was notwithstanding so great, that whenever I fell asleep, I was awakened in a few minutes to shiver and chatter my teeth. Our guides slept in the open air, huddled as close together as possible.

July 13th.—The dawning of the day was truly welcome, as it promised a near termination to our toil and suffering; while the gratification of having accomplished a difficult and interesting object remained. We left our hard bed without reluctance, and were impatient at the slowness with which the guides made their preparations for packing up their numerous articles. We began to descend as the sun illumined the white top of Mont Blanc, but long before his beams penetrated below. Above our heads the sky was perfectly clear, while the vallies beneath, and all except a few of the highest surrounding mountains, were concealed by a sea of clouds. The appearance of the clouds when seen from above is singular. They resemble immense floating masses of light cotton. We retraced our path of the first day, and took the same precaution as then, of attaching ourselves together. When the sun's rays began to shine on the snow around us, I found that my eyes were so much inflamed, I could scarcely bear them sufficiently open to see the path; notwithstanding the gauze veil I had constantly used, my face was in a terrible condition: the outer skin had fallen, and permitted the moisture of the blood to ooze through; Dr. Van Renssalaer's eyes were in a worse condition than mine, and his face nearly as bad.

At one part of the glacier, where the snow had been so hard at our passing, that our feet left no impression, we lost our path, which was a misfortune, as we had chosen a much better path in ascending, than we could have done in descending. We however fell in with the track of two chamois, which our guides followed with confidence, relying on the instinct which they attribute to these animals, of finding a practicable path over the most difficult glaciers.

When we had at last passed the glacier, our feet seemed to rejoice at once more touching firm ground; and we felt as if returning to the world from a distant voyage. The rest of our task offered no difficulty, being a constant descent down the rocky mountain side, except what was occasioned by our almost total blindness, and the pain we suffered in our eyes. It was, however, very fatiguing, as the descent from a mountain is generally more so than the ascent to it. We stopped at the same chalet where two days before we had bid adieu to the world—and were regaled by the old man and his daughters with a delicious draught of milk and cream. We reached the village soon after ten o'clock in the morning, having been absent fifty-three hours, during forty-five of which we were on the ice. We were received with many congratulations by the honest villagers, who had taken considerable interest in our success.

As soon as my companion and myself reached our inn, we buried ourselves in our chamber, to enjoy the luxury of a bed, and of darkness which was necessary for our eyes. It was not until the sun had set, and the twilight was not too strong for them, that we ventured out to regale ourselves with a comfortable meal. Two English visitors, who watched with a glass our progress on the top of Mont Blanc, had expressed a determination to follow our example; but our account of the difficulties we met with, and still more the view of the condition we were in, soon induced them to abandon the design. We walked out under the "Needles," and as we saw the clouds hang half way up these rocks, which pierce the sky, and on whose clear heads the stars seemed to repose, we could scarcely realize the idea that they were the same we had seen only thirty hours before, far below our feet.

The next day after our return to Chamouny our eyes had become so much stronger, that we were enabled without much inconvenience to proceed to Geneva, where we have since remained to recover from our sufferings. Though now more than a week has elapsed, my face is yet much inflamed; but my eyes have regained their usual strength. Dr. Van Renssalaer has suffered in the same manner, but on the whole rather less than myself. Wherever the sun's rays could penetrate, even behind the ears to the level of the neckcloth, the skin has fallen off, and I have exchanged the tawny hue of an Italian and Sicilian sun, for the fair complexion of a German or Englishman. We have purchased perhaps too dearly the indulgence of our curiosity; but at present, when the difficulties are passed and the gratification remains, I cannot regret it, especially if I succeed in making you partake of the one without suffering from the other.

Principal Events in the Life of the celebrated Volney.

FROM A PARIS PAPER OF APRIL 28.

Count Constantine F. B. de Volney, peer of France, commandant of the Legion of Honour, and member of the French Academy, born at Crayon (Mayenne) in 1755, died last night of an inflammation of the bowels. He was one of our most learned men and distinguished writers. From his early youth he had a taste for travelling, and this became so ardent that in the year 1773 he embarked for Egypt and Syria, whence he did not return till 1785, having lived almost a year in a convent of Maronite monks on Mount Lebanon, where he acquired a profound knowledge of the Arabic language. In 1787, he published his *Travels in Egypt and Syria*, which has been translated into the principal languages of Europe. This work served as the surest guide and most exact indicator to the famous expedition to Egypt under the Directory.

He was no stranger to the first efforts of the Bretons towards the obtainment of liberty in 1788. To him is attributed a periodical publication of that period, entitled the *Sentinel*, printed at Rumes, whose influence on public opinion contributed to the first shocks of our antiquated monarchy.

In 1789, M. de Volney was nominated a deputy of third order (Tiers-Etat) from the Seneschalate of Anjou to the States General. He took an active part against despotism and aristocracy, and soon perceived that resistance to the revolution would only precipitate it beyond its object. Startled by the violence of the parties into which the constituent assembly was divided, he proposed the convocation of the principal assemblies, in hopes of obtaining a new legislature composed of men less under the influence of hostile passions than that which then existed; but his motion was rejected as being contrary to the oath which the Tiers-Etat had taken in the Tennis Court Hall.

In September, 1791, M. de Volney presented the National Assembly with his celebrated work, entitled, "*The Ruins, or Meditations on the Revolutions of Empires.*" A new edition of this work has appeared, almost on the day of the author's death.

The same year he received a gold medal from the empress Catherine the Second, in return for a copy of his *Travels in Syria and Egypt*.

In 1792, he accompanied M. Pozzo di Borgo to Corsica, where he became acquainted with the ambitious youth (Bonaparte) who some years after played so great a part on the theatre of the world.

In 1793, he published the *Law of Nature, or Catechism of a French Citizen*: he also declared himself inimical to the events of the 31st May. He was imprisoned till after the 9th Thermidor, when he was restored to liberty.

In November, 1794, he was named professor of the Normal School, and published his *Normal Lessons* in 1799, which were reprinted in 1810.

In 1795, he made a voyage to the United States, where he was very well received by the immortal Washington. He appeared for some time determined on fixing his residence in the new world; but he decided on returning to France in 1798.

He printed, in 1803, the *Table of the Climate and Soil of the United States of America*, which is terminated by a vocabulary of the Miamis (Indian) language.

He took an active part in the revolution of the 18th Brumaire, and had nearly been chosen one of the consuls: he was successively nominated senator, vice president of the senate, count of the empire, and commandant of the legion of honour.

He adhered to the act of abdication of Napoleon on the 1st April, 1814, and on the 4th June following, he was created a member of the chamber of peers.

Besides the works already mentioned, M. Volney has published—1st. A Simplification of the Oriental Languages, or a new and easy Method of understanding the Arabic, Persian and Turkish Languages, with European Characters—1795, in octavo. The author's system, though more simple than that of Langles, has not been adopted. He proposes to replace the Arabic alphabet by a new alphabet, composed of Latin letters, 4 Greek letters, and 12 new characters, by means of which the advantage could be obtained of describing each simple articulation by a single (unique) character.

2d. Report made to the Celtic Academy on the Russian work of Professor Pallas: Comparative Vocabulary of the Languages of all Nations, in 1805, quarto. This report, which is also inserted in the first volume of the Memoirs of the Celtic Academy, has for its object to prove that the *Vocabulaire totius Arabic*, composed by the empress Catherine, could not serve as an universal vocabulary, the Russian alphabet being too incomplete for this purpose, and an universal alphabet being yet a desideratum. M. de Volney was much occupied in this research, and it is beyond doubt, that among his manuscripts will be discovered ample fruits of those important studies that attracted so much of his attention, and occupied so large a portion of the lives of Leibnitz, and several other learned men.

3d. Supplement to the Herodotus of Larcher, or Chronology of Herodotus, conformable to the text.

4th. Statistical Questions for the Use of Travellers.

5th. New Researches in Ancient History, in 3 vols. 8vo. With this important work M. de Volney terminated his literary career.

During several years, the health of M. de Volney had become considerably impaired, and it was often feared that his devotion to letters would deprive his country of the services of a man whose genius did her honour. His frame has been spread to the remotest parts of Europe, and the Asia-

tic Society of Calcutta lately enrolled his name amongst those of her members.

He left, by his last will, an annual prize of 1200 francs to the author of the best memoir on the study of the oriental languages, and particularly on the simplification of their characters. The memoirs are to be examined and judged by a committee, composed of three members of the Academy of Belles Lettres, three of the French Academy, and one of the Academy of Sciences.

POOR LAWS.

After some remarks on the measures lately adopted by the British parliament, to suppress by force the revolutionary spirit in England, the "*Christian Observer*" proceeds to remark: "We must, however, repeat, that in thus guarding against the more imminent perils which menaced the country, the legislature appear to us to have discharged only a part, though doubtless a very important part, of their high obligations. They have secured, as we trust, the public peace, and have so curbed the spirit of disloyalty, as to allow us some respite from the revolutionary convulsion which seemed ready to overwhelm us. Now then is the time for adopting measures of a more permanent and paternal description, calculated not merely to restrain the practice of evil, but, as far as may be, to cure it. Now is the time for reviewing our commercial system; for reforming our poor laws, that fruitful source of some of the most baneful evils which afflict society; for extending and perfecting plans of education; for affording additional facilities of public religious instruction; for improving our code of criminal laws and our system of prison discipline."

In a subsequent part of the same article they observe: "Our whole system has been a system of interference, with trade, with corn, and, above all, with the domestic economy of the poor themselves. We have interfered, until we have rendered them as helpless and unthinking as children. We have taught them by our institutions to depend, not on their own exertions, or frugality, or forethought, but on the parish."

Flight of Horses.—About the 10th of June, 1810, at 2 o'clock in the morning, while colonel R. M. Johnson's regiment was encamped on the peninsula below fort Wayne, in a beautiful grass plain, some of the horses that passed the line of sentinels and got some distance up the St. Joseph, became alarmed, and came running into

camp in great fright. This alarmed all the horses in the regiment, which united in a solid column within the lines, and took three courses round the camp. It would seem almost incredible, but it is a fact, they appeared not to cover more than about 40 by 60 yards of ground, and yet their number was about 600. The moon shone at the full, the camp was an open plain, and the scene awfully sublime. They at length forced their passage through the lines, over-set several tents, carried away several panels of fence, passed off through the woods, and were in a few minutes out of hearing of the loudest bells that belonged to the regiment. The next day was spent in collecting them, some of which were found ten or twelve miles from the camp, up the St. Joseph, and about 20 or 25 were never found, although pursued above 20 miles. The alarming flight of the horses of that regiment injured them more than could have been supposed; for they had run so long in such a compact body, that very few had escaped without being lamed, having their hind feet cut by the shoes of those that crowded on them.

The writer of this was an officer of the guard and then on duty. The night being clear and calm, the moon rolling in full splendour, the flight of the horses, which resembled distant thunder, the idea of an immediate attack from the Indians, and the ground of our encampment being paved with the bones of former warriors, all combined to furnish one of those awfully sublime *night scenes* that beggar all description.

A similar flight of the horses took place about the 22d of June, after the regiment arrived at Fort Meigs. [*Western paper.*]

LEGISLATIVE BULL.

Extract from an act passed at the late session of the New York legislature, for the corporation of Canandaigua.

Be it further enacted, That the said trustees, or the major part of them, as often as they shall make, ordain and publish, any by-laws for restraining animals, may be seized and impounded, and, after reasonable delay, may be sold at public vendue, to pay the penalties imposed for the violation of any such ordinance, together with costs and charges.

Record.

Public Acts of the Sixteenth Congress.
(Concluded from page 14.)

LANDS.

1. An act to authorize the President of the United States to appoint a receiver of the pub-

lic monies and register of the land office for the district of Lawrence county, in the Arkansas territory. (House, 17th March, 1820.)

The President to appoint a receiver and register for Lawrence county; and persons having claim to pre-emption in the district, to make it known to the register six weeks before issuing patents to soldiers of the late army.

2. An act further to suspend, for a limited time, the sale or forfeiture of lands, for failure in completing the payment thereon. (Senate, 30th March, 1820.)

Forfeiture of lands for nonpayment suspended till 31st March, 1821. The benefit limited to purchasers within 640 acres.

3. An act making further provision for the sale of the public lands. (Senate, 24th April, 1820.)

Public sales of lands in half quarter sections, after 1st July, 1820. At private sale, in entire, half, quarter, or half quarter sections, &c. Fractional sections, less than 160 acres, to be sold entire; with exception where special provision has been made for the sale of land in town lots. No credit on sales of public lands after 1st July, 1820; and complete payment must be made on the day of purchase. Purchasers at private sale must produce a receipt for the money before entry. The highest bidder at public sale failing to pay, the tract is to be again offered, and the failing bidder is rendered incapable of purchasing at such sales. After the 1st of July, 1820, the minimum price of lands to be one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Lands forfeited for nonpayment to be offered at public, before private, sale. Public sales to be kept open two weeks. In case of different applications at private sale, preference is to be given to the highest bidder.

4. An act to establish additional land offices in the states of Alabama and Illinois. (Senate, 11th May, 1820.)

Districts and land offices established at Tuscaloosa and Conecuh court house. Part of Shawneetown district, to form a separate district, with a land office at Vandalia. Another land district in Illinois, with a land office at Palestine. Registers and receivers to be appointed at these offices, with compensation, &c. as in other cases.

5. An act to revive the powers of the commissioners for ascertaining and deciding on claims to land in the district of Detroit, and for settling the claims to land at Green Bay and Prairie des Chiens, in the territory of Michigan. (House, 11th May, 1820.)

The powers of the commissioners for deciding on claims to lands in the district of Detroit, under the act of the 23d of April, 1812, revived. The commissioners are to examine and decide on claims filed; to employ an agent capable of translating the French language, for ascertaining titles at Green Bay and Prairie des Chiens; to make report to the secretary of the treasury, &c. 500 dollars for each commissioner and agent, with fees to the agent and register.

6. An act for the relief of certain settlers in the state of Illinois, who reside within the Vincennes land district. (House 11th May, 1820.)

Persons who would have been entitled to right of pre-emption, under the act of 5th February, 1813, had that act been so construed as to embrace those within the Vincennes district, &c.

are to be entitled to certificates for the excess paid above two dollars per acre, &c.; which certificate is made receivable in payment of debt to the United States for land. And persons who would have been entitled, &c. but who were not purchasers, are allowed until the 1st of September, 1820, to prove they would have been entitled; and the register, on being satisfied, is to grant a certificate, upon which every person is allowed to enter a quarter section at the minimum price.

7. An act supplementary to the several acts for the adjustment of land claims in the state of Louisiana. (Senate, 11th May, 1820.)

Claims for lands in the eastern district of Louisiana, described in the report of 20th November, 1816, confirmed. Persons claiming land west of the Mississippi, founded upon Spanish grants, &c. whose claims have not been heretofore filed, may, from 1st July till 31st December, 1820, deliver notices and evidences of claims; and persons neglecting, forfeit their rights. Persons claiming lands under Spanish grants, &c. according to former laws, whose claims have not been confirmed, allowed till 31st December, 1820, to deliver additional written evidence, &c. and the rights of persons neglecting are barred. No claim is to be recommended for more than a league square. The 5th section of the act of 3d March, 1811, concerning land claims in Louisiana, is revived and continued until 11th May, 1821. The registers are to receive 600 dollars additional.

8. An act extending the time allowed for the redemption of land sold for direct taxes, in certain cases. (House, 11th May, 1820.)

The time allowed for redemption under the acts of 9th Jan. 1815, and 5th March, 1816, extended three years; the extension is limited to the 1st June 1821; and interest must be paid. Equitable and reversionary interests may be redeemed. In case of the death or removal of collector, &c. the district judge, on petition, is to direct the marshal to make a deed of conveyance for lands sold for nonpayment of direct tax.

9. An act authorizing the sale of thirteen sections of land, lying within the land district of Canton, in the state of Ohio. (House, 11th May, 1820.)

13 sections, reserved by an act of 3d March, 1807, and subsequently ceded by the Delaware tribe of Indians, to be offered for sale at Wooster, &c.

10. An act to annex certain lands within the territory of Michigan to the district of Detroit. (House, 11th May, 1820.)

Public lands, to which the Indian title was extinguished by the treaty of Saginaw, of 24th September, 1819, attached to the district of Detroit; and lands not reserved or appropriated, to be surveyed and offered for sale.

11. An act for the relief of persons holding confirmed unlocated claims for lands in the state of Illinois. (House, 15th May, 1820.)

Persons holding claims, within the tract reserved by the 3d section of the act of 16th April, 1814, allowed until 1st Nov. 1820, to register them; and the claims to be received in payment for public lands within the reserved tract, &c.

12. An act to authorize the governor of Illinois to obtain certain abstracts of lands from certain public offices. (House, 15th May, 1820.)

The register at Vincennes to furnish the governor of Illinois with a complete abstract of lands purchased at that office, which lie in Illinois. The expense to be defrayed by that state. The secretary of the treasury to furnish a complete abstract of military bounty lands patented to soldiers of the late army within that state, on application of the governor.

13. An act granting to the state of Ohio the right of pre-emption to certain quarter sections of land. (Senate, 15th May, 1820.)

The right of pre-emption to one quarter section granted to Ohio, at the minimum price, near the centre of each county, in the purchase under the treaty of St. Mary's of 20th Sept. 1818, for a seat of justice, which must be fixed on the lands selected. After deducting the sums paid by the state, the proceeds are to go to the erection of public buildings.

LAWS.

1. An act to authorize the secretary of state to cause the laws of the Michigan territory to be printed and distributed, and for other purposes. (House, 24th April, 1820.)

The laws of Michigan in force, to be printed under the direction of the secretary of state; the expense not to exceed 1250 dollars. Fifteen sets of the laws of the United States to be transmitted to Michigan, to be distributed as the local government may direct.

2. An act to amend the act, entitled "An act to provide for the publication of the laws of the United States, and for other purposes. (House, 11th May, 1820.)

Orders, resolutions, and laws, except those of a private nature, to be published in one newspaper in the district of Columbia, and not exceeding three in each state and territory. Treaties to be published in like manner, except Indian treaties, which are to be published in only one paper, in the state to which they relate. The 1st section of act of 20th April, 1818, is repealed; but the repeal is not to prevent the payment of compensation due.

LIGHT-HOUSES.

1. An act to authorize the erection of a light-house on one of the isles or shoals, near Portsmouth, New Hampshire. (Senate, 15th May, 1820.)

Besides the light-house designated in the title, this act provides for other light-houses, buoys, light vessels, piers, and bells, in other situations, and makes appropriations of money for them.

LOAN.

1. An act to authorize the President of the United States to borrow a sum not exceeding three millions of dollars. (House, 15th May, 1820.)

The President empowered to borrow not exceeding 3,000,000 dollars, at five per cent. reimbursable at any time after 1st Jan. 1832; or at six per cent., reimbursable at the pleasure of the United States. The bank of the United States may lend the money; or the secretary of the treasury may cause certificates of stock to be constituted and sold. An agent may be appointed to procure subscriptions or sell the stock: 4000 dollars are appropriated for the expenses of the loan; for the repayment of the principal and interest of which the surplus of

the annual appropriation of 10 millions of dollars is pledged.

MAINE.

An act for the admission of the state of Maine into the union. (House, 3d March, 1820.)

Maine, with the consent of the legislature of Massachusetts, admitted into the union from the 15th March, 1820. See *Congress*, 1.

MILITIA.

1. An act to establish an uniform mode of discipline and field exercise for the militia of the United States. (House, 12th May 1820.)

The system of discipline and field exercise observed by the regular army, to be observed by the militia; and baron Steuben's rules and discipline repealed.

MISSOURI.

1. An act to authorize the people of the Missouri territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the union on an equal footing with the original states, and to prohibit slavery in certain territories. (House, 6th March, 1820.)

This act, in general, contains the same provisions as preceding acts in like cases. The election of representatives to form a convention is to take place in May; and the convention is to meet at St. Louis on the second Monday of June, 1820. The state is to be entitled to one representative in Congress until the 4th census; and there is the usual reservation of land for schools, for a seminary of learning, and for a seat of government. The 8th section of this act forever prohibits slavery and involuntary servitude, in the territory ceded by France under the name of Louisiana, north of 36 degrees 30 minutes north latitude, except that part included within the state of Missouri, unless in the punishment of crimes; but fugitives may be reclaimed.

NAVY.

1. An act authorizing the building of a certain number of small vessels of war. (Senate, 15th May, 1820.)

Not exceeding five, of not exceeding 12 guns each, at the discretion of the President. 60,000 dollars appropriated for the object.

2. An act to amend an act "making reservation of certain public lands for naval purposes," passed the 1st March, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. (House, 15th May, 1820.)

The secretary of the navy no longer to appoint agents and surveyors. The duties to be performed by such surveyors of public lands as the President may designate.

3. An act to amend the act, entitled "An act to amend the act authorizing the employment of an additional naval force." (House, 15th May, 1820.)

Enlistment of able seamen, ordinary seamen, and boys, authorized during the continuance of the service or cruise; but not to exceed three years.

OFFICE, LIMITATION OF THE TERM OF.

1. An act to limit the term of office of certain officers therein named, and for other purposes. (Senate, 15th May, 1820.)

District attorneys, collectors of customs, naval officers, surveyors of customs, navy agents, receivers of public monies for lands, registers of land offices, paymasters, apothecary and assistant apothecaries general, and the commissary gene-

ral of purchases, are to be appointed for four years, removable at pleasure. The commissions of officers now in service are to cease as follows: if dated before 30th Sept. 1814, at their dates ensuing 30th Sept. 1820; if after 30th Sept. 1814, and before 1st Oct. 1816, at their dates ensuing 30th Sept. 1821. All others, four years from their dates. The President is authorized to regulate and increase the sum in bonds required from officers, from time to time: And the commissions of officers employed in collecting revenue, are to be made out and recorded at the treasury department.

PENSIONERS.

1. An act in addition to an act, entitled "An act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war," passed the 18th day of March, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. (House, 1st May, 1820.)

No person is to receive a pension after payment of that due on 4th March, 1820, unless he exhibits a schedule of his whole estate and income, clothing and bedding excepted, and takes an oath. A certified copy of the schedule and oath, and opinion of the court, must be delivered to the secretary of war; but in case of insanity or incapacity, the schedule may be received by the court without oath. The original schedule must be filed in the office of the clerk of the court; and persons swearing falsely are to suffer as for wilful and corrupt perjury. The secretary of war may strike from the pension list the names of persons who, in his opinion, are not in indigent circumstances, &c. And persons who relinquished pensions to avail themselves of the act of 18th March, 1818, and stricken from the list in virtue of the third section of this act, are restored to pensions relinquished.

2. An act to revive and continue in force an act, entitled "An act to provide for persons who were disabled by known wounds received in the revolutionary war," and for other purposes. (House, 15th May, 1820.)

The act of the 10th April, 1816, revived and continued in force for one year. Pensions to commence at the time of completing the testimony of claims to them. Agents for paying invalid pensions, to give bonds, &c.

POST OFFICE.

1. An act in addition to an act, entitled "An act regulating the post office establishment." (Senate, 13th March, 1820.)

The president of the Senate pro tempore, and the speaker of the house of representatives, entitled to frank as the vice president of the United States.

POST ROADS.

1. An act to alter and establish certain post roads. (House, 13th May, 1820.)

This is an act, such as is usually passed every year, discontinuing and establishing post roads.

ROADS.

1. An act to authorize the appointment of commissioners to lay out the road therein mentioned. (Senate, 15th May, 1820.)

The President to appoint three persons, not citizens of Ohio, Indiana, or Illinois, to examine the country, and to lay out a road from Wheeling to some point on the left bank of the Mississippi, between St. Louis and the mouth of the

Illinois. Surveyors, &c. are provided for, and the commissioners are to report to the President. 10,000 dollars are appropriated to defray the expense.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

1. An act in addition to the several acts for the establishment and regulation of the treasury, war and navy departments. (House, 1st May, 1820.)

Unexpended monies, when the object of appropriation has been effected, are to be carried to the surplus fund; and balances of money drawn, after the object has been effected, are to be repaid to the treasury. The secretaries of war and navy are to lay before Congress, annually, a statement of appropriations of the preceding year, showing the amount, balance, &c. and the secretaries are to estimate the probable demands, and the balances are to be deducted from the estimates of the current year. Unexpended monies, in the hands of the treasurer, as agent of the war and navy departments, for more than two years, to be carried to the surplus fund till the expiration of the time limited for the completion of the object. Appropriations for the service of one year, are not to be transferred to another branch of expenditure in a different year, under act of 3d March, 1809.

No appropriations in the hands of the treasurer, as agent, to be subject to transfer under the act of the 3d March, 1809: but appropriations in the military department, for subsistence, forage and medical and hospital and quartermaster's department, may be applied from one or the other of these objects; and in the naval department, appropriations for provisions, for medicine and hospital stores, repairs of vessels and clothing, may be applied to either of those objects, by direction of the President. No contracts are to be made by the secretaries of departments, except under authority of a law, or an adequate appropriation; and except contracts for subsistence, clothing and quartermaster's department. No land is to be purchased for the United States, unless in virtue of a law. The secretary of the treasury is to annex to the annual estimates a statement of appropriations for the service of the year by former acts, and of sums in the treasury. The 9th section of this act repeals the 2d section of the appropriation act for military arrearages of the 16th February, 1818.

2. An act providing for the better organization of the treasury department. (Senate, 15th May, 1820.)

This act authorizes the designation of an officer of the treasury, by the President, who is to act as agent on behalf of the United States, for enforcing payment of monies due. For this purpose he may proceed by warrant of distress against principals and sureties. Persons who consider themselves aggrieved, may apply to a district judge, and obtain an injunction, first giving bonds. Clerks of courts are to furnish the agent with lists of judgments and decrees in suit, to which the United States are parties.

TREATIES, INDIAN.

1. Between the United States and the Chipewa nation of Indians, concluded at Saganaw, on the 24th September, 1819; ratified 25th March, 1820.

2. Between the United States and the tribe of Kickapoo Indians of Vermillion, concluded on the 30th of August, 1819; ratified 10th May, 1820. See *Appropriations*, 9.

Agriculture.



"Let us cultivate the ground, that the poor, as well as the rich, may be filled; and happiness and peace be established throughout our borders."

ON THE USES OF MILLET.

Read 20th June, 1820.

Frankford, 4th mo. 7th, 1820.

Respected Friend,—I will cheerfully communicate, as far as my knowledge extends, the information thou wouldst like to have respecting *Millet*. It will grow on any soil—a light loam suits it best; it will produce from 20 to 30 bushels of seed per acre; the seed is good food for horses, cows or swine, and on a farm where there is poultry raised, it is very nice food for young chickens; the straw is good fodder, both cattle and horses are fond of it; I consider it equal to equal quantities of clover hay, and where land has become what the farmers call clover-sick, I think it is an excellent substitute. It is an annual plant, and must be sown every spring; it will produce from two to three tons per acre; it is sown in the Fourth month—I believe the fore part of the month is the best time; it is generally cut in the Seventh month; it ought to stand until about half the seed is ripe before it is cut for hay, and when given to the cattle in the winter, the ripe seed will fall off on the barn floor, and with a little care can be collected for seed the ensuing spring; about half a bushel of seed to the acre is sufficient—some say less. I consider this plant most valuable as a substitute for the English grasses; after such a dry season as we had last summer, almost all the clover and timothy seed sown last spring perished. The millet, when cut either for hay or seed, sprouts immediately, like the orchard

grass, and makes very good fall pasture. I consider this plant the most valuable for hay, if it is left standing until the seed is fully ripe: the difficulty is very great to get the straw dry without losing the greater part of the seed in the field. I have no doubt it would answer a good purpose to sow it on purpose for pasture for milch cows.

Respectfully, thy friend,
NATHAN HARPER.

Isaac C. Jones.

In a note which I received from Nathan Harper, under date Fourth month 15th, 1820, he mentioned a mistake that he had made in the above letter, relative to the proper quantity of seed requisite to be sown on an acre of ground; that he therein mentioned about half a bushel per acre, whereas one peck was sufficient.

ISAAC C. JONES.

ON KEEPING COWS.

Read 20th June, 1820.

Burlington, 5th mo. 18th, 1820.

Esteemed Friend—The letter addressed by thee to my father, requesting information of the plan we pursued last winter in feeding our cows, he wishes me to answer, as I more particularly attended to it. I will endeavour to give it to thee as nearly as I can. The experiment was not as carefully observed as we could have wished for its communication to the Agricultural Society; however, if it will be of any service to farmers, it is at thy disposal. The saving of hay by this method of feeding has been considerable, and any plan of obviating the difficulties arising from the scarcity of customary provender must be worthy of some attention.

In the latter part of the fall we commenced threshing our wheat with Hambly and Pitt's machine. The straw being dry, a considerable part was cut up and blown out with the chaff. We concluded it would answer a good purpose to pickle this chaff, and feed it out to the cows, which was accordingly done. It was eaten, but not with as much relish as we expected. We then concluded, that steaming it would probably be more advantageous (by softening and warming it), and pursued our plan in the following manner. We had a tight hogs-head (large enough to contain chaff for two messes), which we filled every night, and poured in three or four buckets of scalding water: it remained in this state, with

a cover to confine the steam, till morning: we then took out enough of the steamed chaff for one feeding, and threw it into a mess-box, with a small quantity of salt and one pint of ground rye and corn to each cow, and mixed the whole together. Of this mess, we gave a half bushel, well heaped, to each cow; the residue in the hogs-head we fed out (after the same manner) in the evening; at noon we gave them cornstalks. We had fourteen cows that were fed for five months in the abovementioned manner: they eat during this time about two tons of hay, and this was principally given them in the spring: the young cattle were not fed in this way, and with the horses there was no particular economy used. It was remarked by those who saw the cows, that they looked very well, and the quantity of milk from the milch cows was thought to have increased. We were very particular to have their stalls well littered every night with dry straw, which no doubt promoted their thriving condition.

With respect to a description of the machine for cutting straw and cornstalks, it had probably better be deferred till we can form a better opinion of its operation. We have tried it, and find it is susceptible of some little improvement. If we can, by cutting up the cornstalks, make them as valuable as straw for cattle, of which there is little doubt, it will be using two substitutes for the scarcity of hay.

With respect, I remain thy friend,

JOSEPH P. SMITH.

P. S.—I give a rough calculation that we made upon the probable economy of this plan, compared with that of feeding hay. We estimate the ground stuff at 70 cents per bushel; the chaff is not considered in the calculation, as it was before generally applied to very little use; the hay we calculate at \$14 per ton, though none was selling here under \$16.

Their keep for 5 months, at 31 cents per day	\$46 50
Two tons hay, at \$14	28 00
	<hr/> \$74 50
Their keep on hay alone, allowing each cow to eat 1½ ton in 5 months, would be 21 tons, at \$14 per ton	\$294 00
Saving	<hr/> \$219 50

Isaac C. Jones.

Patent Machine Paper of J. & T. Gilpin, Brandywine.

Clark & Raser, Printers.